



U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Hearing

Religious Freedom in Nigeria:

Extremism and Government Inaction

Panel



Frank Wolf was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 10th District of Virginia in 1980. He announced that he would leave the Congress in December 2014, at the end of his 17th term, to focus exclusively on human rights and religious freedom. In announcing his decision, Wolf said that as a follower of Jesus, he is called to work for justice and reconciliation, and to be an advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves. In January 2015, Wolf was appointed the first-ever Wilson Chair in Religious Freedom at Baylor University, a post he held through 2016. That same month he joined the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative, a newly created religious freedom group, from which he retired in September 2018 as Distinguished Senior Fellow.

Wolf is the author of the International Religious Freedom Act, which infused America's first freedom – religious freedom – into U.S. foreign policy by creating the International Religious Freedom Office at the State Department headed by an Ambassador-at-Large, and the bipartisan, independent U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Wolf also founded and served as co-chairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. Wolf received his B.A. degree from Penn State University in 1961 and his law degree from Georgetown University in 1965.



Mike Jobbins leads Global Affairs and Partnerships at Search for Common Ground. He joined Search in 2008 and has designed, developed and managed conflict resolution, violence prevention, and inclusive governance programs. Mike leads Search's advocacy and partnerships with U.S. and European governments, the private sector and NGO partners. Mike was Senior Program Manager for Search's Africa Region, where he led the design and development of programs in 22 countries across the continent, including Search's programs responding to state collapse in South Sudan, violent extremism in the Sahel, the civil conflict in the Central African Republic and the Cote d'Ivoire elections crisis. Before returning to Washington, he was a program manager with Search for Common Ground in

the DRC and program officer in its Burundi regional office, where he oversaw the start-up and management of election, security sector, and complex emergencies programs.

Prior to joining Search, Mike supported training with high-level political leaders in the DRC and Burundi and Africa policy research at the Woodrow Wilson Center think tank. Originally from New Jersey, Mike holds an MA from Georgetown and a BA from Harvard. He is fluent in English and French.



Hafsat Maina Muhammed is best known these days as a beacon of hope and the voice of reasoning when it comes to interreligious issues, women's development, CVE, etc. She once worked tirelessly at the Interfaith Mediation Center in Kaduna. Her NGO in Nigeria, Choice for Peace, Gender and Development (COPGAD), specializes in eradicating conditions that allows for violent extremist behavior of at risk-youth, women's development, empowerment for young girls and promoting positive messages to the younger generation. COPGAD ensures that there is adequate interaction between government agencies and the communities, along with promoting peace and self-reliance through effective participation for sustainable development in poor and struggling communities in the northern part of Nigeria.

Rev. Fr. Anthony I Bature is the author of *The Quest for Peace and Development in Wukari, Promoting Peace Education in Nigeria: A case study on Building a Paradigm for Peace, Peace Education and Development in Wukari, Taraba State*, and has contributed to several articles in national and international journals. Rev. Bature is currently, Head of Department (HOD) Religious Studies and the Chaplain St. Francis of Assisi Chaplaincy Federal University of Technology, Wukari, Taraba State. He is a member of the Governing Council of the University.

Rev. Bature was born in Wukari, Taraba State, Nigeria and was educated in Saints Thomas Aquinas and Augustine Major Seminary, Nigeria respectively. He attended Fordham University, New York where he obtained M.A in Religious Education in 2007. He had his PhD in Educational Leadership Administration and Policy (ELAP) at Fordham University Lincoln Center, New York in 2012. His quest for knowledge has endeared him to Education for Dialogue, Peace and Justice as a transformative paradigm for non-violence. He is an ardent member of the Forum on Farmer and Herder Relations in Nigeria (FFARN).



Tomás F. Husted is an Analyst in African Affairs at the Congressional Research Service, where he covers the littoral countries of West and Central Africa. Prior to joining CRS, he worked with the International Rescue Committee in Sierra Leone, the National Democratic Institute, and the Enough Project.